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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1876. [CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Received up to 18th November, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

THE *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 10th November says that the reason adduced by the Government in vindication of its policy of enforcing retrenchment of public expenditure is the excess of expenditure over income. There are men who looked upon this plea of the Government as not a strong one. The expenses of the Delhi durbar have tended to confirm them in their opinion. They say that the imperial assemblage will cost the state about seventy-five lakhs of rupees, while reductions are to be made only to the extent of three or four lakhs of rupees for the purpose of restoring equilibrium to the disturbed finances of India; but, unless retrenchment is effectual, it is unjustifiable. Waving the question of retrenchment, some of our contemporaries, who cannot look with indifference on any unnecessary expenditure of the public money, contend that the Government is not justified in incurring an expenditure of seventy-five lakhs of rupees on the Delhi pageant.

They remark that when the Queen ascended the throne only £70,000, or seven lakhs of rupees, were spent, and now seventy-five lakhs of rupees are to be spent simply to signify joy at the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Majesty! They fear that, when Her Majesty formally assumes the imperial crown, an equivalent sum will have to be sent to England to give significance to the day. They regard the expense of seventy-five lakhs of rupees on the Delhi gathering the more objectionable as it is a matter of concern to India rather than England. In these circumstances they may allege, with a show of reason, that had India been fortunate enough to have a parliament of her own like England, no one would have dared to submit a proposal for expending seventy-five lakhs of rupees on the Delhi ceremony, and to secure the sanction of the parliament to the proposal would have been utterly hopeless. But the editor, having in view the precarious state of the frontier affairs, and the attitude of Russia, is strongly of opinion that the assemblage of all the native chiefs and princes in one place at the request of the Government will have a very good political result. It will not fail to impress the rival states with a great idea of the power and resources at the command of England.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustán*, dated 11th November, urges the expediency of inviting respectable pleaders to the Delhi durbar. They belong to a very honourable profession, and such high officers as the lord chancellor, the chief justices of high courts, and others, are chosen from among them. The members of this profession have better claims to the honour of an invitation to durbars than the rude, unpolished, and illiterate zemindars of estates of five or six villages.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the same date urges upon the Government the advisability of changing the metropolis of India from Calcutta to Delhi. When British rule had only just taken root in the country, it was expedient or rather necessary that the seat of the Government should be at some

secure and accessible point of the coast. It was considered expedient on political grounds also to have the headquarters of the English Government at as great a distance as possible from Delhi, the capital of the Moghul emperors. But now the circumstances have entirely changed. The supremacy of British rule in India has been recognised by the European powers, the frontier states and tribes, and above all by the native chiefs themselves; uninterrupted peace and tranquility reign throughout the length and breadth of India, and the means of communication have been vastly improved. The Government would then do well to abandon Calcutta for some more central point. Moreover, strictly speaking, Calcutta is only the nominal seat of the Supreme Government, the summer being spent at Simla, and most of the winter being taken up by the Viceroy's tour. The climate of Calcutta is not good, and the city is hardly ever free from sickness. The necessity of keeping the Government officials, especially the highest, in good health, cannot be denied. Native chiefs who have occasion to visit the Viceroy usually prefer to visit him at Simla, Calcutta being so far away. The Government is forced every year to curtail the state expenditure. The poor native servants of the Government have always to bear the brunt of the calamity, and Europeans enjoy absolute immunity from it. These periodical reductions are quite inexplicable, inasmuch as no extraordinary demands, as of war, &c., appear to be made on the revenues of the Government. To remove these financial difficulties, it would be well to retrench the expenditure entailed by the annual migrations of the Government from Calcutta to Simla. This object will be attained if the seat of the Government is transferred to Delhi. It would be very unwise on the part of the Government to change its summer residence from Simla to Ránikhet. The argument that is urged in support of this proposal is based on the unhealthiness of Simla of late. But when Ránikhet becomes as thickly populated as Simla is at present, it will be just as unhealthy. The execution of the proposed project will

involve a double loss to the state. The existing buildings, which have cost the Government lakhs of rupees, will fall to ruin, and new buildings equally costly will have to be erected in Ránikhet. The loss occasioned to private individuals, who have built houses at Simla at a great expense, will be ruinous. These arguments, on the other hand, lose their force when applied to a great emporium of trade like Calcutta, where houses are always in demand. And as there are already old and splendid buildings at Delhi, sufficient to answer all the requirements of the Government, there is no need of incurring any expenditure in the erection of new buildings. An important political advantage will also be secured. Delhi is better situated than Calcutta for the supervision of affairs on the frontier.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Málwa Akhbár* of the 15th November says that great improvements were effected in the State of Holkar by Sir T. Madho Rao. But under his successor, Raghunath Rao, everything has gone wrong, and consequently his administration is very unpopular with the people. Trade has considerably fallen off; justice is not promptly and impartially administered; disorder pervades every department of the administration; private interest carries great weight; and the land revenue exacted by the state is heavy and oppressive.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 11th November says that it is evident that the good administration of a native state depends on the ability and experience of the Madár-ul-muhámm or the Minister. The selection of a good minister is, therefore, a matter of the first importance. There is, no doubt, an order of the Government of India by which no native chief can appoint his minister without previously obtaining the approval of the Government. But in practice this rule has hitherto been observed only as a matter of form. The Government never tries to test the ability and experience of a man whom a native chief nominates, but is always too ready to give its approval. The chiefs themselves, being totally illiterate, can

hardly be able to make a good selection; and one would not be far from the truth in saying that the highest bid in the shape of a nazrana carries the day. The Government would therefore do well to exercise great discretion in filling the vacant office of the minister in a native state. The editor draws the attention of the Government to this subject as the office of the minister is vacant in several states at this moment. Sahibzada Muhammad Ubaid-ulla, of Tonk, is a man emifitted to discharge the difficult duties of the office.

TURKEY.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 15th November rejoices at the armistice that has been agreed upon between the belligerents in the Turkish war. This cessation of hostilities will put a stop to fearful bloodshed, at least for a time. Some means should be devised during this interval to effect a lasting peace, for otherwise the war will break out again with increased horrors. It is imagined that Russia may now declare an open war with Turkey, but probably she will not foolishly ignore the bitter experience gained in the late battles fought between the Turks and the Servians. The victories that the Turks obtained over the Servian armies were virtually won over the Russian forces and generals, who made up the bulk of the Servian armies. Russia must have been convinced by this time that it will not be easy for her to defeat the Turks in the field. There are several things to show that the Servian war against Turkey was caused by the instigation and abetment of Russia. It is a matter of astonishment and sorrow that in the present advanced era of enlightenment and civilization such an enormous loss of human life should be occasioned by the intrigues of an emperor bent on war. It is true that no one dares find fault with the strong or powerful. But the conduct of Russia in the late Turkish affairs deserves strong reproof. The ministers of England used formerly to restrain the lawless ambition of Russia, but even they have long suffered her to pass without rebuke. It now behoves all the kings and emperors of Europe and Asia to hold a conference to settle

the conditions of a treaty of peace for Turkey and its refractory tributary states. But Russia should not be invited to take a part in the conference. All conditions which it is impossible for Turkey to fulfil should be carefully avoided.

The same paper says that the English newspapers have unanimously raised their voices for the expulsion of the Turks from Europe. The real reason of this storm of passion is that the Turks are Mussalmans, while the other ruling powers of Europe are all Christians; but the reason alleged is that the Turks are a foreign conquering race. But if this be the principle of policy which regulates the right of possession of a country by a ruling power, then the English will have to retire from Hindustán, Australia, America, and Aden; the Russians will have to vacate Turkistan and Asia; and the Emperor of Germany will have to give up Prussia. In obedience to this line of policy, startling revolutions will also take place among the native states of India, every race reverting to its own original dominions. Is this strange theory, so vehemently advocated by the English papers, an outcome of English civilisation? If this theory be pushed a little further, every nation or tribe should be called upon to abandon the faith it now professes and revert to its original religious belief. All that the physician has to do in curing a patient of his disease is to remove the cause from which the disease originated. The late disturbances in Bulgaria owed their origin to the unprovoked mutiny of the Bulgarians themselves. It seems but yesterday when the native forces of the English mutinied in 1857, and the innocent people were hanged, plundered, and transported. True, the Turks resorted to barbarous measures to crush the revolt, and even exercised oppression, but for all this the Bulgarians have themselves to blame. The truth is that the influence of civilization on the minds of men is confined to times of peace and tranquility, but in the disordered time of war all civilization is usually thrown overboard. It is for the interest of the peace of Europe that the present disturbances, which the selfish intrigues of Russia

have provoked, should be speedily quelled. If any attempt is unwisely made to subvert the Ottoman empire, and drive out the Turks from Europe, quarrels will arise through the greediness of Russia, which nothing short of the undisputed dominion of the world can satisfy, which may shake all Europe to its bases. Moreover, Turkey has not been recently conquered by the Turks, but has been in the possession of the Mussalmans for the last thirteen centuries. The expulsion of the Turks from Europe can be achieved by no amount of human strength.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 11th November expresses its deep regret and astonishment at the circumstance that no European power has yet thought of taking Russia to account for her gross misconduct. She is always intriguing to provoke quarrels and disturbances, her secret object being to establish her authority over the whole world. It is high time that the European powers should join together to curb her ambition and cripple her strength. This bold measure will solve the so-called complicated Eastern question once for all. If Russia persists in working on the religious feelings of the Christian powers of Europe, and the latter continue to yield to her evil influence, Turkey will be obliged to have the question of her miseries and misfortunes decided permanently. Weak as Turkey is her national strength is yet unimpaired. It must be borne in mind that the Sultan is regarded as the khalifa and protector of the great Mussalman sanctuaries—Mecca and Medina. If he despair of aid from the Christian powers, he will naturally feel inclined to appeal to all the Mussalmans of the world, and there will be nothing to prevent them from responding to his call. In the event of an outbreak of war with Russia, it may be strongly hoped that England and France will espouse the cause of Turkey. Russia has been openly assisting the refractory tributary states of Turkey with men and money, and therefore, properly speaking, the Turks have been hitherto fighting not with the Servians but with the Russians. If the Christians will patiently consider the late proceedings, they will at once be

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The following is the substance of a memorial said to have been transmitted by the Mussalman community of Allahabad to Her Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India. It has already appeared in several vernacular papers as the *Nur-ul-Anwar*, *Nasir-ul-Akhbar*, the *Punjabi Akhbar* and the *Anjar-ul-Akhbar*:—

We, the Mussalman subjects of Her Majesty, offer our most cordial thanks to Her Majesty for the wise and politic measures adopted by Her Majesty's ministers, which had the benefit of Turkey in view. We know that there are many excellent character and temper in Hindustan who scrupulously refrain from outraging the feelings of Her Majesty's subjects in any way, though there are some wild blood-thirsty brutes also who blindly delight in the infamy of their country and government. Every one knows very well that the Ottoman empire is a sort of religious kingdom, and that the Sultan is virtually the Sultan of all the countries inhabited by Mussalmans, i.e. almost the whole of Asia and Africa, besides that part of Europe where he reigns. The whole Mahomedan world owes allegiance to him, and every Mussalman is always ready to sacrifice his life for his sake. Any injury aimed at him is counted as an injury aimed at the whole Mussalman community. Is it then possible to suppose that the followers of the Moslem faith will remain silent and inactive while Islam is assailed with [illegible]? In case any [illegible] injury befalls him, the whole Mussalman world will have to take it very much to [illegible]

and wage war upon his enemies. Under these circumstances we implore our Majesty's wise ministers not to listen to the hateful clamours of rash and wild savages, but to stick to their old policy in connection with Turkey. Some of our opponents argue that if the Porte were in reality a religious affair, the Mussalmans would not have kept quiet at the time of the Crimean war. They are labouring under a great and foolish mistake. They betray an utter ignorance of different circumstances and times. Servia rose in revolt once before also and was chastised. Why did not England interfere then? But race-feeling is now unfortunately beginning to influence political policy; and the storm which is now raging in Asia and Africa originated in Europe itself. The Turks have done no more in the eastern part of Europe and Africa than the Russians did and are doing in Khokand and Central Asia.

The *Lauhi-Mahfúz* of the 10th November publishes an article headed "The war between Islám and Infidelity" in its columns of "extracts." The unjust expressions of sympathy publicly made by some European powers and their subjects have a very dangerous tendency to turn the Servian war into a religious war. Leaving out of account the other powers, the conduct of the people of England is astonishing. The people assemble in large bodies and loudly and bitterly expatiate on the tyranny and cruelty of the Turks towards their Christian subjects. They urge the combination of all the Christian powers of Europe for the purpose of expelling the Turks from Europe by force. It is, indeed, a matter of surprise that Englishmen, distinguished for their wisdom throughout the world, should make such foolish proposals to their Government—proposals which if adopted would lead to the loss of millions of human lives. Before giving vent to these unreasonable views, they should have thought over the subject a little. The Turks have been ruling in Europe for the last five centuries, and it is by no means easy for any one except the Almighty God to turn them out of the country. The European powers once before now combined together with the object of driving out

all Turks, but their attempts ended in disgraceful failures. If the Christians, regarding the Servian war as a religious war, form a union amongst themselves and attack the Sultan from all sides, will the Musalmans, who hold Turkey as the stronghold of their faith, look with indifference upon the matter? Or, will the curses of the Christian priests kill them? All the Mahammadans of the world, under the influence of religious enthusiasm, will feel obliged to resort to arms. Confusion and disturbance will spread over the whole world. Streams of blood will begin to flow. Implacable enmity will seize both Christians and Musalmans everywhere throughout the world; the result of which will be that the two sections of humanity will come to an extinction by mutual warfare. The sin of this universal destruction will attach to none but those men who are trying to bring about the war. Will these men be able to find a secure place of refuge for themselves in case their designs succeed in causing a war? They should be ashamed to think of expelling the Turks from Europe, when they have not yet accomplished the far easier task of liberating the Holy Sepulchr.

The Anjuman-i-Panjab of the 10th November says that Russia has cherished implacable enmity towards Turkey for centuries past, but every one knows with what success. The Russians would not hesitate for one moment to devour the Turks raw if they could. It is obviously impossible for Russia to wrest the dominions of Turkey from the Turks. But supposing that Russia succeeds in effecting the conquest of Turkey, it behoves us to consider how this revolution would tell upon the interests of Europe in general, and of England in particular. The immediate result will be that the supremacy of the Mediterranean will be transferred from the hands of the English and the Turks to the Russians, and the possession of a strong navy will greatly augment the power and influence of Russia in Europe. Russians will be enabled to become the rivals of Englishmen in all Asiatic trade and commerce. The monopoly of commerce which England has so long enjoyed will then come to an end. The insatiable desire of Russia for

the extension of her dominions can only be explained on the supposition of her greediness for money, which nothing but commerce can gratify. Russia has already begun to play the same game in Central Asia that England did in India from the time of Farrakhsiyar to that of Shah Alam II. She has opened trading factories at several places in Central Asia, and strictly prohibited all foreign merchants from carrying on trade in that quarter. No one can deny that the present prosperity, affluence, and power of England have all sprung up from her extensive commerce. It is not easy to fancy how she will be able to sit with her hands folded, when a rival country threatens to injure the means which have raised her to her present elevated position. It is too much to expect of the Russians that, after the conquest of Turkey, they will resist the overwhelming temptation of entering into competition with the English in commerce. The maintenance of peace in Europe, and specially the English interests, demand the avoidance of hostile outbreak between Russia and Turkey. It is very creditable to Turkey that, in spite of her poverty and the frequent changes in her administration, she has been able to put down the insurrections of her refractory subjects and tributary states. The ministers of England are fully acquainted with the ultimate designs of Russia, and the editor trusts that they will never allow Russian intrigues to succeed.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 11th November says that under the English rule paper currency has shown itself to be more precious than jewelry and gold. But now the thoughts of the public have turned in another direction; and with the spread of English civilization, judgment and foresight have increased among natives. Natives are anxious to have the charm of paper currency broken. One instance will suffice to give an idea of the loss which the want of a gold currency inflicts on India. Fifteen crores of rupees have to be annually sent to England to meet the demands of the Secretary of State. This vast amount is transmitted in the silver coin

of India, which in England have to be committed in English coin. Thus India, besides bearing freight charges which amount to two crores of rupees, suffers a loss by exchange aggregating three crores. Accordingly India has to pay twenty crores of rupees instead of fifteen crores; and this dead loss of five crores does no good to India, nor is it an additional cause of winning favour of the Queen for India. Now the question is whether India can afford to cast her five crores of rupees into the sea to no purpose. The *Spectator*, a journal of long established reputation in England, also contends for the introduction of gold as the standard coin. But there are men, on the other hand, who enter their protest against the measure, on the ground that its adoption will lower the value of the existing silver coin. The *Indian Public Opinion* also holds this view. But a slight examination exposes the fallacy of this argument. When a silver currency was introduced in Germany and other countries, the demonetised gold coin was melted into ornaments and other articles for decoration. If silver is now produced in unusual proportions in the American mines, it may be profitably imported into India, where it is in urgent demand. To encourage importation the impost levied on it should be reduced. The introduction of the standard coin of gold will not depreciate silver to any large extent. The proportion of alloy in the rupee should also be decreased, and then the value of the rupee, like the silver coins of the times of Nanakshah and Muhammadshah, will suffer no diminution. The introduction of the paper currency has not removed the demand for silver and silver coin. Likewise the introduction of a gold currency will not affect silver coin. No doubt the currency notes will suffer. But when no one takes them even in England, it may be easily imagined what value attaches to them in foreign countries. The low rate of exchange entails a loss not only on the people but also on the Government; therefore there should be no hesitation in adopting the proposed remedy. No dismissions of muharrirs and low-paid

servants will improve the embarrassed state of the Indian finances; but a gold currency will strike the evil at its very root, and save the Indian exchequer no less than five crores of rupees a year.

POST-OFFICE.

A correspondent of the *Agra Akhbár*, dated 10th November, referring to the contemplated enforcement of reductions in the Education Department, deprecates the measure as unbecoming a just and civilised Government, and prejudicial to the interests of natives in a variety of ways. Civilization, enlightenment, good manners, justice, and every other good quality follow in the train of education. The extensive spread of learning among the people has now enabled the Government to obtain all sorts of learned men for the public service on very low salaries. In case the colleges and schools are abolished in India, all men required for high offices will have to be imported from England, and natives will soon fall again into ignorance, and be fit only for physical labour. The Government now spends lakhs of rupees on the education of the people, and still natives are looked down upon as a semi-barbarous people; but when the Education Department is weakened, and the extent of its sphere narrowed, the effect of this reduction will be simply deplorable: natives will then gradually sink into absolute barbarism. In these circumstances, the writer is very loath to believe that the enlightened and thoughtful English Government will ever think of applying the pruning knife to this useful department, on which the material and moral progress of natives depends. The matter is aggravated by the circumstance that the natives have not yet contracted that love of learning which might prompt them to provide for their own education. No native chief has yet come forward to emulate the conduct of the English Government by establishing good seminaries of learning in his dominions. The indifference of the native nobility and gentry to learning is painfully notorious. Learning has no value in their eyes. Enjoyment and pleasure are the only business of their life. Now, as regards the masses, suffice it to say that the only

not be which weighs with them in the pursuit of knowledge is the desire of obtaining public employment; and they can hardly afford to pay for the education of their children.

POST-OFFICE.

The *Patiala Akhbár* of the 13th November complains of the maladministration, carelessness, and dishonesty of the Postal Department. Frequent complaints reach the press from subscribers about the non-receipt of copies of the journal regularly despatched by the press. Letters sent by subscribers, even those covering remittances but not registered, frequently do not reach the press. These irregularities of the Postal Department cause the press unnecessary trouble and loss. The attention of the department is called to the evil.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Malwa Akhbár*, Indore, of the 15th November, in its columns of extracts from newspapers, notices an untoward accident in the Lanauli Station in the vicinity of the Baur Ghát. Two European boys, about sixteen or seventeen years of age, went out with their guns at night on the 29th of October near the Protestant Church; and one of them fired his gun at the wall of a house which was in a dilapidated state. The bullet struck an old woman who was inside the house. She died the next day. The boys plead ignorance, and have been released on bail.

The above case is also noticed by the *Urdu Akhbár* of the 11th November, apparently on the authority of a contemporary.

The *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 6th November complains of the unsatisfactory state of police arrangements in the Panch Kroshi (Benares), which accounts for the prevalence of theft. Men of low caste, as Pasis, &c., in the disguise of Gosains, also oppress the pilgrims. The bridge at Rameshwar is said to have entirely given way on one side. Men who pass over the bridge run a very great risk of falling in. If

it is not soon repaired the whole of it will come down ere long.

A correspondent of the *Panjabi-Akhbár*, dated 11th November, points out the urgent need of repairing the portion—between the station Chahchavatni and Kamália—of the road that runs from Chahchávatni to Jhang and Dehra Ismail Khán. This portion of the road was damaged by the Ravi floods in 1875, and has been neglected since. It is almost impassable by carriages, specially during the rains.

A correspondent of the *Kohinúr*, dated 11th November, remonstrates against certain practices of the Courts of Justice in Sháhpur. Suitors are sometimes compelled by the Court to give in their rázínáma. They are sometimes called upon to nominate their arbitrators even against their will.

A correspondent of the same paper writing from Simla complains of the free sale of spirituous liquors unchecked by any restrictions. The effects of this freedom upon the public morals may obviously be supposed to be very injurious.

A correspondent of the *Khair Khwah-i-Hindustan*, dated 19th August, complains that the students of the school at Montgomery spend their school hours in religious discussions, and therefore make no progress in learning. It is apparent from this that the headmaster of the school possesses no ability or knowledge, and should be displaced by a better man.

A CORRESPONDENT to the Panjáb-Akhbár, dated

NAME.	DATE.
...	...
...	...
...	...

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	DATE.	
	1876.	
Dabdabá-i-Sikandari,	November	13th
Mutla-i-Núr,	〃	〃
Sádiq-ul-Akhbár,	〃	〃
Kárnamah,	〃	〃
Khair Khwáh-i-Oudh,	〃	〃
Lawrence Gazette	〃	14th
Rahbar-i-Hind,	〃	〃
Lytton Gazette,	〃	〃
Shola-i-Túr,	〃	〃
Akhbár-i-'Am,	〃	15th
Mázwá Akhbár,	〃	〃
Safír-i-Bodhaná,	〃	〃
Nur-ul-Akhbár,	〃	〃
Safír-i-Hind,	〃	〃
Nyer-i-Azam,	〃	〃
Kashi Patrika,	〃	〃
Anjuman-i-Akhbár,	〃	〃
Núr-i-Afshan,	〃	16th
Oudh Akhbár,	〃	17th

PRIYA DAS,

Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

No.	Name.	Date.
	1876.	
	Pushtah-i-Sikandari, ...	November 1876.
	Nuha-i-Nur, ...	"
	Sadig-ul-Akhbar, ...	"
	Karunah, ...	"
	Kiran Khabar-i-Oudh, ...	"
	Lucknow Gazette, ...	"
	Rukhsar-i-Hind, ...	"
	Lytton Gazette, ...	"
	Shola-i-Tur, ...	"
	Akhbar-i-Am, ...	1878.
	Mofeed Akhbar, ...	"
	Sahar-i-Rozlafzi, ...	"
	Nur-ul-Akhbar, ...	"
	Sahar-i-Hind, ...	"
	Nur-i-Aram, ...	"
	Kasli Patrika, ...	"
	Jaunpur-i-Akhbar, ...	"
	Nur-i-Afshan, ...	1879.
	Oudh Akhbar, ...	1880.

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